Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims replaces all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (Withdrawn) A method for the preparation of biologically active β-NGF from its inactive pro form having a poor solubility which is obtainable after recombinant preparation in prokaryotes, wherein proNGF in its inactive form having poor solubility is solubilized in a solution of a denaturing agent in a denaturing concentration and is afterwards transferred into a solution which is not or weakly denaturing whereby solubility is maintained and the denatured proNGF assumes a biologically active conformation as determined by the disulfide bonds present in native β-NGF, and subsequently the prosequence is cleaved off whereby active β-NGF is obtained which can be isolated.

2. (Withdrawn) A method according to claim 1 wherein the not or weakly denaturing solution contains arginine.

3. (Withdrawn) A method according to claim 2 wherein the concentration of arginine is 0.2 to 1.5 mol/l.

4. (Withdrawn) A method according to claim 1 wherein the naturation is carried out in the presence of a thiol component in its reduced and oxidized form.

5. (Withdrawn) A method according to claim 1 wherein the cleaving off of the prosequence is carried out by means of a protease with a substrate specificity for cleaving after the amino acid arginine.

6. (Withdrawn) A method according to claim 5 wherein trypsin is used as the protease.

7. (Withdrawn) A method according to claim 1 wherein guanidinium hydrochloride or urea is used as the denaturing agent.

8. (Previously Presented) A pharmaceutical preparation containing proNGF as the active ingredient, the proNGF having activity of a level comparable to that of β-NGF.

9. (Withdrawn) The use of recombinant proNGF for the preparation of a pharmaceutical preparation for the treatment of neuropathies.

10. (Withdrawn) A method according to claim 2 wherein the naturation is carried out in the presence of a thiol component in its reduced and oxidized form.

11. (Withdrawn) A method according to claim 3 wherein the naturation is carried out in the presence of a thiol component in its reduced and oxidized form.

12. (Withdrawn) A method according to claim 2 wherein the cleaving off of the prosequence is carried out by means of a protease with a substrate specificity for cleaving after the amino acid arginine.

13. (Withdrawn) A method according to claim 3 wherein the cleaving off of the prosequence is carried out by means of a protease with a substrate specificity for cleaving after the amino acid arginine.

14. (Withdrawn) A method according to claim 4 wherein the cleaving off of the prosequence is carried out by means of a protease with a substrate specificity for cleaving after the amino acid arginine.

15. (Withdrawn) A method according to claim 2 wherein guanidinium hydrochloride or urea is used as the denaturing agent.

16. (Withdrawn) A method according to claim 3 wherein guanidinium hydrochloride or urea is used as the denaturing agent.

17. (Withdrawn) A method according to claim 4 wherein guanidinium hydrochloride or urea is used as the denaturing agent.

18. (Withdrawn) A method according to claim 5 wherein guanidinium hydrochloride or urea is used as the denaturing agent.

19. (Withdrawn) A method according to claim 6 wherein guanidinium hydrochloride or urea is used as the denaturing agent.

20. (Previously Presented) The pharmaceutical preparation of claim 8, wherein the proNGF is recombinant.

21. (New) A method of making the pharmaceutical preparation of claim 8, the method comprising

expressing proNGF in a host cell;

denaturing the expressed proNGF to obtain denatured proNGF;

renaturing the denatured proNGF; and

purifying the renatured proNGF for inclusion in a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier.

22. (New) The method of claim 21, wherein the host cell is a prokaryotic cell.

23. (New) The method of claim 21, wherein the expressed proNGF is denatured by contact with guanidinium hydrochloride or urea.

24. (New) The method of claim 21, wherein the denatured proNGF is renatured by contact with a thiol reagent.

25. (New) The method of claim 21, wherein the purified proNGF is included in a pharmaceutically acceptable solution.